

## **Topical questions**

### ***Personal particulars***

What's your name?

How old are you?

Where were you born?

When were you born?

How tall are you?

What do you weigh?

Where do you live?

What's your address?

What do you do? ( What's your job? )

What kind of personality have you got? (energetic, talkative, friendly, sociable, shy, have a good sense of humour etc.) – inner qualities

What do you look like? - appearance

Which school do you attend? ( Which school do you go to? )

Which year are you in?

Do you do well at school?

What are your favourite subjects?

Which are the ones that you don't like?

What are your main interests? ( What are you interested in? )

## ***Family***

Do you come from a large or a small family?

Who do you live with?

How many brothers or sisters have you got?

How old are your parents?

What do your parents do?

Have you got any uncles/ aunts / cousins?

What is your relationship like with your parents?

What family occasions do you celebrate?

Do the English people celebrate namedays?

What is the greatest family festival for you?

Do you spend a lot of time with your family?

Are your grandparents still alive?

How often do you see your relatives?

Which of them do you like best? Why?

Could you describe one of your relatives?

## ***Housing***

Where do you come from? / Where do you live?

Do you like living there? Why?

Do you like your town / village?

Do you live in a house or in a flat?

How many rooms are there in your house?

Have you got a balcony?

What can people do in a garden?

How is your bedroom furnished?

What have you got in your kitchen?

What things are there in your bathroom?

Where do you have dinner?

Who cleans your house / flat?

What is your dream house like?

## ***Learning languages***

Do you speak foreign languages?

*I learn English in a specialized English class. We have 5 lessons a week. I also learn German in a study circle at School. I'm going to leave primary school and I will learn French / Italian ... at the secondary school. I'm happy when I understand a pop song or a TV programme and I'd like to improve my English.*

Why is it important to learn English?

*English has become an international world language. Millions of people speak it. It is the language of the Internet. Tourists and politicians use it. Pop music is mostly in English. Over two hundred million people speak English as a mother tongue and it is taught in all countries.*

How long have you been learning English?

*I started learning when I was 8 so I've been learning it for 6 years. I go to a specialized English group which means that we have 5 lessons a week.*

What makes a good language learner?

*Motivation is very important. If you want to use the language you will be motivated. Practice is also important. You have to learn regularly. English learners have a great advantage: internet, movies, pop music. All of them are available in English. A good language learner tries to find every opportunity to use the language.*

How can you improve your reading in English?

*We can use the Internet in English. When we search for something on the net, it is better to use English searching words, because we will get much more search results. We can practice English by reading readers. They are books for language learners and they are easier to read than original books.*

How can you improve your speaking in English?

*In the English lessons we often speak in English but it is not enough. We can watch movies in English, listen to English pop songs, but the best way of practising is to meet native speakers. It is difficult in Zalaegerszeg, because there aren't many foreigners. It is more effective to travel to an English speaking country. I hope that I will be able to travel with my secondary school to England to practice the language.*

What English dialects do you know?

*English is spoken all over the world so people speak it in different ways. In England British English is spoken, in the United States American English and in Australia Aussie English is spoken. There are differences in pronunciation eg. New York and in vocabulary eg. lift and elevator and sometimes in spelling eg. double l in British English travelling vs AE traveling or BE colour vs AE color.*

### ***At school***

Which school do you attend / go to?

Which year are you in?

Do you like your school? Why?

Could you describe your class?

Could you describe your classroom?

What subjects are you good at?

Which day is the most difficult for you? Why?

Do you do well at school?

What is your form-teacher like?

What languages do you learn?

What do you do in the English lessons?

What out-of-class activities do you do?

What is your school like?

What is your favourite school subject? Why?

Is there a library at your school? What can you do there?

What do you do in the school gym?

What is the school canteen like?

What is your class like? ( How many students? Who is your friend? Why? )

Where are you going to study after the primary school?

Have you ever been to an English-speaking country?

## ***Jobs***

What do you do?

What are your parents' jobs?

What would you like to become?

What are your plans for the future?

Why do people have to work?

What is the duty of a secretary?

Do you think you will need English in your job?

What are the well-paid jobs?

What is an ideal job for you? Why?

What is the difference between jobs and professions?

*The jobs that need university qualification are called professions. The people who work in offices are sometimes called white-collar workers and they have to use their brains. They are professors, teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, artist, scientist etc. Blue-collar workers usually work with their hands.*

Name some skilled and unskilled jobs.

*Skilled workers are those who have learnt a trade such as a car mechanic, computer operator, technician, turner, baker, butcher, beautician, hairdresser, tailor, cook, shop assistant, driver, painter, bricklayer, plumber, carpenter, joiner etc. Unskilled jobs, such as the job of a factory hand or an office cleaner don't need special training.*

Name some jobs where you have to wear a uniform.

Name some jobs where you work on flexi-time instead of regular hours.

*Flexi-time working means that you don't have to work from 9 to 5. Sometimes you work at home or work at the weekends when it is needed. Musicians, politicians, actors and actresses don't usually work in regular hours. Sportspeople do regular training but the matches are usually at the weekends.*

### ***Daily routine***

What time do you usually get up?

What do you do before breakfast?

What do you usually have for breakfast?

How do you go to school?

How long does it take to get to school?

How many lessons have you got?

*It's different. We have harder and easier days as well.*

What is your school time-table like?

Where do you have lunch?

What do you do after school?

How do you spend the evenings at home?

How do you help your parents with the house work?

What does housework involve?

How do you share the housework in your family?

*I tidy my bedroom, my mum cooks meals and dad's duty is the car wash.*

What jobs does your father do around the house?

What do you help your mother with?

What time do you usually go to bed?

How many hours of sleep do you need?

Describe your daily routine on a Sunday.

## ***Hobbies***

What is your hobby?

What do you like doing in your free time?

What do your friends like doing?

What are the most popular pastimes in Hungary?

What kinds of indoor and outdoor hobbies can you think of?

Do you read novels and newspapers the same way?

Do you take photos?

What games do you like playing?

Have you ever collected anything?

What do people usually collect?

Does your school organise any free time activities?



### ***Sport and games***

Which are your favourite sports?

How many PE lessons do you have a week?

What kind of exercises do you do in PE lessons?

Do you do any sports regularly?

What are the basic winter sports?

What sort of ball games do you know?

What water sports do you know?

What extreme sports do you know of? What do you think about them?

What equipment do you need for skiing?

What team sports are Hungarians good at?

Is playing cards a waste of time?

Where do people go for hiking?

## ***Meals***

How many meals do you have a day?

What do you usually have for breakfast / lunch / dinner?

Who prepares breakfast for you?

Where do you have lunch?

What time do you have dinner?

What is your favourite dish?

What do you eat for the first, second and third course?

What do you keep in the fridge?

Who does the cooking in your family?

What kinds of food do you particularly dislike?

What are our national dishes?

What does breakfast consist of in England?

What do vegetarians live on?

Why do people go on a diet?

What do you need for a successful picnic?

When you eat out, what places do you like?

Have you ever tried the food of a foreign country? What was it like?

### ***Health and illness***

When did you last go to the doctor's? What was the matter with you? How did the doctor examine you? What sort of treatment did he/she give you?

Where can you get medicine?

How long did it take to recover from your illness?

Did you have a specific problem when last time you went to see your dentist?

What are the common diseases?

Have you ever been to hospital?

How often is it advisable to go and see a dentist?

What is an ambulance used for?

What do you do if you have poor eyesight?

What can people be addicted to?

What can we do against addictions?

What are the most common illnesses nowadays?

What are the duties of pharmacists/chemists?

## ***Shopping***

How often do you go shopping?

How do you do shopping at weekends?

What do you buy every day?

What can you buy in a market place?

What kind of shops can you find in the city centre?

What do men usually wear?

What kind of clothes do you wear every day?

What do you think about fashion?

What are the most fashionable clothes for young people?

Where do you prefer shopping, in a supermarket or in an ordinary shop?

What are sales?

What is hire purchase?

What is e-commerce?

How can you pay in shops?

What makes a good advertisement, in your opinion?

### ***Fashion and clothes***

What kind of clothes do you like wearing?

How do you dress for school?

Do people's clothes reflect their personalities?

Are women more concerned with fashion than men?

What do you wear for sports?

What kind of clothes do you pack for a summer holiday?

What occasions do you dress up for?

What kinds of different footwear do we use for different occasions?

Do you ever buy clothes in second-hand shops?

In which professions is it important to dress well?

Which professions require wearing a uniform?

Is there a dress code at your school?

What accessories do men and women wear?

## *Transport*

How do you get to school?

What does public transport mean?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of public transport?

How did you come here? How long did it take?

How do you like to travel?

Have you ever flown?

Do you like travelling by train/bus/car?

Where do you like to go on holiday?

How can you book accommodation?

How do you prepare for a holiday?

What countries have you been to?

Why are aquaparks popular?

Do you take photos when you travel somewhere?

## ***Weather***

Which is your favourite season? Why?

What is the weather like in spring / summer / autumn / winter?

What is the weather like today?

What do you wear in summer / winter?

Why are people interested in weather forecasts?

Have you ever been in a big storm?

How do you protect yourself against bad weather?

How does weather influence traffic?

What is your opinion about summer school holidays? Would be a shorter holiday better?

Why is weather a popular topic in conversations?

What natural disasters happen in the world / in Hungary?